

Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals

Plenary Meeting Three

July 27- 29, 2004

Crowne Plaza Union Square, San Francisco, CA

Proposed Agenda

Goals for Meeting

- Review draft report from Subcommittee on Synthesis of Current Knowledge and determine next steps on question of “What is known, uncertain, not known, or not agreed upon?”
- Establish a common knowledge base for Committee members on marine mammal research and funding processes
- Discuss key issues that need to be addressed to overcome potential barriers to research that advances our knowledge about acoustic impacts on marine mammals, and develop preliminary recommendations on those issues where possible
- Review progress of Subcommittee on Management and Mitigation and determine next steps

Tuesday, July 27

9:00 – 9:20 Welcome, Introductions, Review Agenda for this Meeting, Approve Summary from Meeting Two

9:20 – 10:30 Review Results of Action Items from Meeting Two

- Discuss possible need for coordination of Advisory Committee efforts with implementation of other national efforts to address ocean issues (*45 minutes*)
 - Discuss implementation of reports from U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and from Pew Oceans Commission
 - Discuss how Advisory Committee report may intersect with these efforts
- Review and discuss information on Bahamas strandings as requested by Committee (*25 minutes*)
 - Update on NOAA/Navy final report
 - Hildebrand/Balcomb information on estimated exposure levels

10:30 – 10:45 BREAK

10:45 – 12:15 Report from Subcommittee on Synthesis of Current Knowledge

- Review draft report of what is known, and what the major uncertainties and disagreements are
- Discuss Subcommittee product and identify issues and concerns for Committee discussion; provide feedback to Subcommittee for refinement of draft report. *(The process for this discussion will involve each Committee member identifying his or her major substantive concerns about the document, the reasons for those concerns, and proposals for addressing them. This will not be a wordsmithing exercise, as we will work more on language at subsequent meetings.)*

- 12:15 – 1:15 **LUNCH**
- 1:15 – 2:30 **Continue Discussion of Subcommittee Report**
- 2:30 - 2:45 **BREAK**
- 2:45 – 4:30 **Discuss How to Move Forward with Synthesis Report**
- How can the Committee make the best use of the Subcommittee product?
 - What are the implications of the Subcommittee report for the development of research priorities?
 - Develop agreed upon criteria for research priorities
 - Discuss an initial list of research priorities
 - Discuss the desirable next steps in developing research priorities
 - Discuss how mitigation and monitoring issues will be integrated into the development of research priorities
- 4:30 – 5:00 **Public Comment**
- 5:00 **Adjourn**
- 5:15 **Reception**

Wednesday, July 28

- 8:30 – 8:45 **Opening Remarks, Review Agenda for the Day, Introduction to Discussions of Key Issues for Addressing Barriers to Research on Marine Mammals and Sound**
- 8:45 – 10:30 **Issue 1: What funding is currently available to address the scientific uncertainties of concern to the Committee? *(Plenary Discussion)***
- What levels and types of funding have historically been and are currently available to address the significant research questions?
 - What are the funding sources? What are the solicitation and review processes for each?
 - What questions have been and are being addressed by current and historic research?
- Background for this session: Information from research funders concerning the questions outlined above*
- 10:30 – 10:45 **BREAK**
- 10:45 – 11:15 **Continue Discussion of Research Funding**
- Should the Committee develop recommendations for future funding needs? If yes, how should it go about this task?
 - Are there other next steps for the Committee on this issue?

- 11:15 – 12:00 Issue 2: Addressing Actual or Perceived Bias When There are Major or Dominant Funding Sources for Research**
- Report from conference call discussion on this topic
 - Consideration of proposal from conference call participants
 - Determination of next steps
- 12:00 - 1:00 LUNCH**
- 1:00 – 3:00 Issue 3: Permitting Issues for Researchers Involved in Studying Marine Mammals and Sound and/or Mitigation and Management of Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals (*Plenary Discussion*)**
- What are the concerns of researchers and others about the current requirements/systems for incidental harassment authorizations and marine mammal research permits?
 - What are the consequences of the current requirements/systems on the development of important information? How can these consequences be addressed, with and/or without statutory change?
 - What are the desired characteristics of a realistic regulatory regime for research on or affecting marine mammals?
 - What are the next steps for the Committee on this issue?
- Background: Donna Wieting of NMFS and possibly FWS to present information about potential improvements in current system*
- 3:00 – 3:15 BREAK**
- 3:15 – 4:15 Issue 4: Coordination of Research Efforts and Dissemination of Research Results (*Plenary Discussion*)**
- What are the specific concerns regarding all interested parties having access to data and/or research results?
 - Have Committee member organizations tried to address these concerns in the past? If yes, with what results?
 - Are there additional mechanisms that the Committee should discuss and consider? If yes, what are they?
 - Should the Committee develop recommendations on this topic? If yes, how should it go about this task?
 - Are there other next steps for the Committee on this issue?
- 4:15 – 4:45 Public Comment**
- 4:45 – 5:00 Wrap Up and Adjourn**

Thursday, July 29

8:30 – 8:45 Opening Remarks, Summary of Day One and Two, Goals for Day Three

8:45 – 10:15 Issue 5: Animal Welfare Ethics Concerns re: Research Practices and Stranding Responses (*Plenary Discussion*)

- What ethical guidelines exist now? What is the range of views about their value or effectiveness?
- How have Committee member organizations addressed these concerns in the past?
- What situations that may arise as research efforts move forward are not anticipated and/or addressed by the existing guidelines?
- Should the Committee develop recommendations on this topic? If yes, how should it go about this task?
- What are the next steps for the Committee on this issue?

Background information for this discussion:

- * *Presentation on animal welfare ethics regulations and issues (Daryl Boness, Smithsonian Institution (emeritus) and Marine Mammal Commission Committee of Scientific Advisors) (15 minutes)*
- * *Paul Nachtigall to provide outline of all permit steps researchers must complete before beginning research*
- * *Committee members to come prepared to provide information about animal welfare and ethics procedures currently in use, and any concerns about them*

10:15 – 10:30 BREAK

10:30 – 11:30 Issue 6: Capacity of Research Community to Address Research Questions of Concern to the Committee (*Plenary Discussion*)

- Are there sufficient facilities and scientists to undertake the research that is needed to improve understanding of acoustic impacts on marine mammals?
- What are the issues regarding the availability and development of improved research technologies?
- What are the next steps for the Committee on this issue?

Background information for this discussion:

- * *Committee members to come prepared to provide information that addresses the questions.*

11:30 – 12:00 Report from NOAA Fisheries Shipping Symposium

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

- 1:00 – 2:30 Report from Subcommittee on Management and Mitigation**
- Review information from Subcommittee on Management and Mitigation
 - Consider and refine proposed full charge and workplan; approve revision
 - Discuss next steps on management and mitigation, including direction and content of final product
- 2:30 – 2:45 BREAK**
- 2:45 – 3:00 Update on International Policy Workshop** (London, England, 28-30 September 2004)
- 3:00 - 4:30 Plan for Meeting Four** (New Orleans, LA, 30 Nov.-2 Dec. 2004)
- Review plans for development of proposals and recommendations for review at Meeting Four, based on discussions over past three days
 - Discuss and agree on additional topics for Meeting 4 - Potential topics could include:
 - Draft report and recommendations from Subcommittee on Management and Mitigation
 - Draft recommendations on research priorities
 - Status of draft synthesis report
 - How Committee would like to address the topic of uncertainty and precaution in its recommendations
 - Draft outline for Committee Report
- 4:30 – 5:00 Review Decisions and Actions from This Meeting**
Evaluate Meeting Progress Toward Advisory Committee Goals
Wrap Up and Adjourn